

It was at one of these performances that Mother met the debonair Joseph Louis Charbonnet, Daddy Joe. Daddy Joe and Mother married in July 1918. They were blessed by a union spanning 40 years—a union that produced five children: Helena, Joseph, Jr., known as Bubby, Leroy, Joyce, and Nolan.

By 1950, Mother and Daddy Joe had settled in Los Angeles. They were joined by many of their friends from New Orleans, and soon formed social clubs which would become the hub for many of their social and philanthropic activities.

Mother was a gifted seamstress, who could always be found at her sewing machine turning out enviable designs to rival the most talented couturiers. She would spend all day laboring over her elegant designs, but in the evening her attention would turn to her second love—playing cards. Her love of card games would evolve into a passion for Las Vegas.

Most of all, however, Mother has always adored her family and her church. She is a steadfast and devout member of Transfiguration Catholic Church. For the past quarter of a century, she has been the proud recipient of the church's Mother's Day corsage, presented to the oldest member in attendance.

Mr. Speaker, on Sunday, August 4, 1996, Mrs. Charbonnet's family and friends gathered at Los Angeles' renowned Wilfandel Club to pay tribute to this remarkable and indefatigable woman. I am sure that it was grand celebration, for she is a grand lady. I am proud to count her as my friend, and delighted to have this opportunity to share a glimpse of her wonderful life with my colleagues. Please join me in extending our heartfelt birthday wishes to this outstanding centenarian.

DeLAURO HONORS ST. PAUL UAME CHURCH ON ITS 150TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. ROSA L. DeLAURO

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 5, 1996

Ms. DeLAURO. Mr. Speaker, on Sunday, September 15, 1996 the officers and members of Saint Paul Union American Methodist Episcopal Church will gather to celebrate the church's 150th anniversary. I am pleased to rise today to congratulate the St. Paul UAME congregation on this special occasion.

The church has an incredibly rich history. The church traces its roots as far back to 1805 and developed from a strong tradition of grass-roots initiatives and organizing. The Saint Paul Union American Methodist Episcopal Church, as it is now known, has a history which begins in 1847. Organized in 1952 by lay Elder John Williams, it was originally called the Ecclesiastical Society and was located at 47 Webster Street. The church was later moved to 69 Webster Street and renamed the African Union Church by lay Elder William Walker. Finally, in 1920 the church became the Saint Paul Union American Methodist Episcopal Church. In 1938 the city of New Haven began the Elm Haven housing project. St. Paul was located in the middle of the proposed project and a decision was made to move the church, intact, to the south side of Dixwell Avenue. The church was moved and completely renovated. The church was dedi-

cated on May 12, 1940 under the pastorate of the late Rev. James E. Henry.

The church continued to grow and in 1956 was assigned the Rt. Rev. David E. Hackett. It was the leadership of Reverend Hackett which facilitated great progress and growth of the church. During that time church property was improved, a financial reserve maintained and community services were expanded. The church also fondly remembers the tenure of the Rev. Dr. Clyde J. Bobo Bowman who was assigned to St. Paul in 1971. The Reverend Bowman initiated a community based ministry that sought to address the problems and concerns of senior citizens, the church's neighborhood, and the young people and children in the area. This community based philosophy is one that the church continues to espouse.

The St. Paul UAME Church is a clear example of the important role of the church in people's lives today. The church gives everyone a place to find their spiritual center and to solidify and support their values. In addition to ministering to the needs of its own congregation, the St. Paul UAME Church reaches out to the whole community. The church tackles difficult social problems like drug use, poverty and violence. At a time when public support for government intervention and programs is low, it is critical that churches and community organizations reach out to those most in need. I commend the St. Paul UAME Church for leading the way and rising to the challenges of combating these social problems. I am pleased to offer my sincerest congratulations to the church on its 150th anniversary. I know the church will continue to be an important force in the lives of both the members of the congregation and the larger community for many more years to come.

FIRST ANNIVERSARY OF KHALRA KIDNAPPING: FREE KHALRA NOW

HON. EDOLPHOS TOWNS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 5, 1996

Mr. TOWNS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to remind my colleagues that Friday, September 6, marks the anniversary of the kidnapping of human rights Jaswant Singh Khalra by the Punjab police. Mr. Khalra observes this anniversary still in custody, his whereabouts unknown. His wife states that he is in the custody of India's brutal Intelligence Bureau, one of the agencies involved in beating an elderly Sikh leader in need of emergency medical treatment. According to an eyewitness who shared a jail cell at Nangal Police Station with Mr. Khalra last October, Mr. Khalra had been beaten into unconsciousness at that time. One can only imagine the brutal torture he has suffered in the past year. I am inserting into the RECORD a press release on this gruesome anniversary from the Council of Khalistan.

Mr. Khalra was general secretary of the Human Rights Wing (Shiromani Akali Dal) at the time that he was kidnapped. In that capacity, he published a report showing that the Indian regime had kidnapped more than 25,000 young Sikh men. These innocent Sikhs were then tortured and murdered by the police. Their bodies were declared "unidentified" and cremated to cover up police responsibility. After publishing this report, Mr. Khalra was told by the Tarn Taran po-

lice chief, Ajit S. Sandhu, "We made 25,000 disappear. It would not be hard to make one more disappear."

Just last month, however, the government confirmed the policy of mass cremations. Its own Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) told the Indian Supreme Court that it had "prima facie evidence" of at least 984 such cremations based on its preliminary investigation. The Supreme Court justices who heard the case called the mass cremation policy "worse than a genocide."

The investigation is ongoing, but no one has yet been punished for these brutal acts. The Indian regime refuses to punish Mr. Sandhu. Despite an indictment against Mr. Sandhu and eight other police officers involved in kidnapping Mr. Khalra, he has not yet been arrested. Instead, he gave an interview to an Indian newspaper in which he said that he is proud of his actions. Why is Mr. Sandhu still at large?

If India is serious about the democratic values it so loudly proclaims, it would be appropriate to observe the anniversary of Mr. Khalra's kidnapping by releasing him, ending the mass cremation policy, and arresting and trying those responsible for these atrocities. Otherwise, the United States, the nation that is truly the world's largest democracy, should stop all aid to the Indian government and institute an embargo against India so that American companies cannot prop up this repressive tyranny with their dollars. It is the only decent thing to do.

HONORING THE CARLOW COLLEGE WOMEN OF SPIRIT

HON. WILLIAM J. COYNE

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 5, 1996

Mr. COYNE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor some very special women—the Carlow College Women of Spirit for the year 1995–96. Carlow College is a private Catholic college for women in Pittsburgh. The college, founded in 1929, created its Woman of Spirit Award to call attention to women in the Pittsburgh area who exemplify the college's ideals of competent and compassionate service in both their personal and professional lives. The college presents a Woman of Spirit Award every month, and it holds a gala event each year to pay tribute to the award recipients for the preceding year.

This year's Woman of Spirit Award recipients are prominent members of the area's business community, the art world, the education community, and the medical profession. Many of them are active in local charities and community organizations. In fact, many Woman of Spirit have impressive accomplishments in more than one fields, and all of them also have noteworthy personal and spiritual lives. I would like to mention each award recipient personally.

The Carlow College Woman of Spirit for October 1995 was Joyce Bender. Ms. Bender is the president and owner of Bender & Associates and Bender Consulting Services, Inc. She has been active in the executive search industry in Pittsburgh for over 16 years. Ms. Bender is a board director for the Data Processing Management Association, and she is a past president of the Association for Business Management and the Pittsburgh Case Users Group. Ms. Bender has also demonstrated a long-term commitment to creating employment